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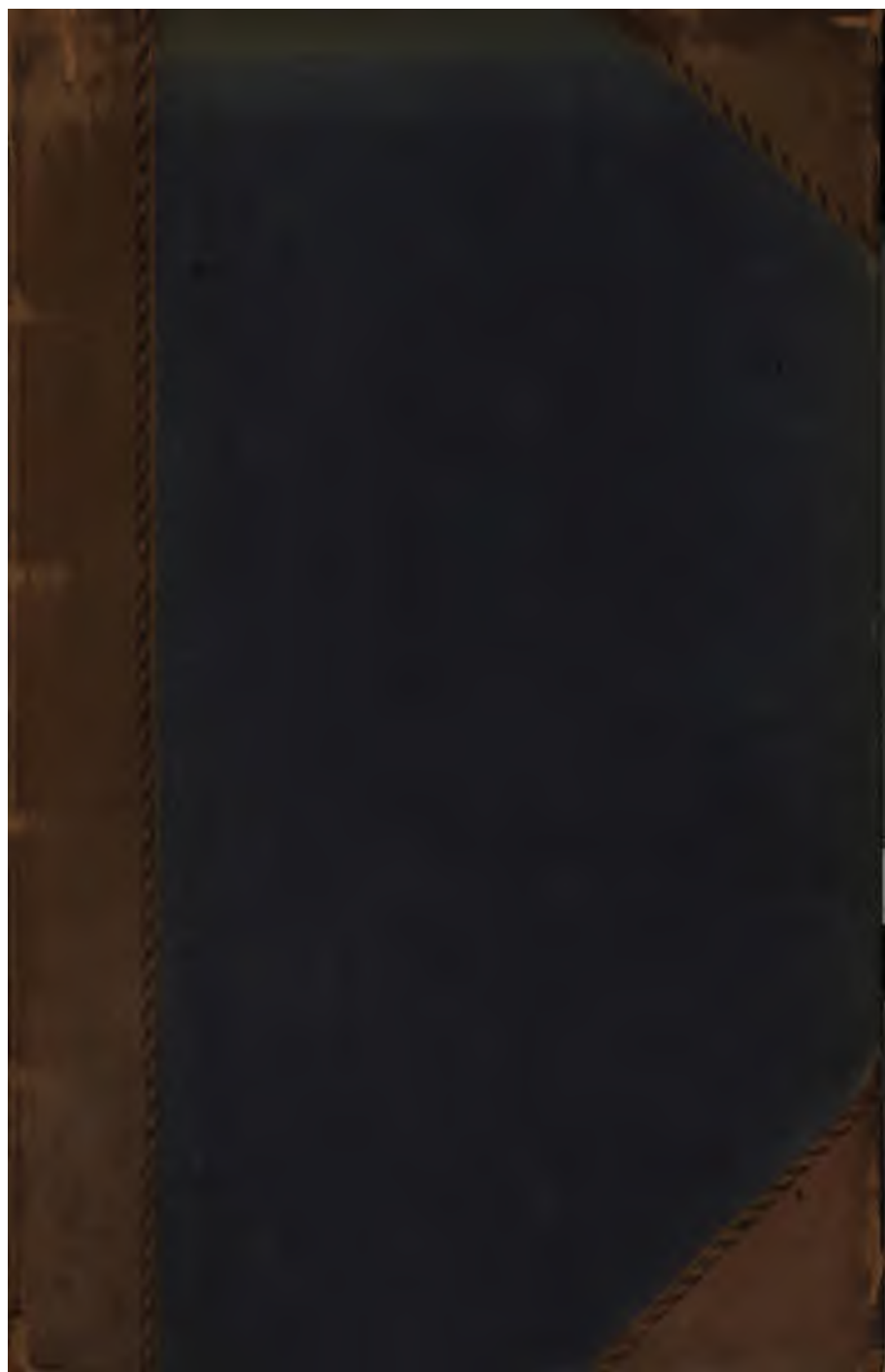
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39.

467.

THE
ANONYMOUS LETTERS.



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THE
ANONYMOUS LETTERS.

IN the spring of 1830, after being some years abroad, I returned home with my brother, and found Mr and Mrs T——, and her sister, Miss H——, settled in our village. We soon became acquainted, and in the course of a year or so, more intimate than the generality of country neighbours. However, Mr. T—— and my youngest brother quarrelled, and were on such bad terms, that all communication between them ceased. In May, 1833, this brother married and on the 4th of April, 1833, a ridiculous account of his intended marriage was sent to the “John Bull,” much in Mr. T——’s style, who was

given to hoaxing. The Editor most properly forbore to insert it, and caused it to be made known to us. Three weeks afterwards a well-worded letter enquired the reason of its non-insertion, and if the guinea sent with it was insufficient. This fixed it on a person of education, who did not care for a guinea.

On the 14th of August, 1833, I received an abusive anonymous letter; soon after which I heard that Mr. T—— was suspected of having put a paragraph in the newspaper, reflecting upon the character of a lady who lived in the neighbourhood, but with whom he was not acquainted. This made me think that if the pure love of mischief could induce him so to act towards a person who could have given him no offence, he was more likely to have acted so towards my brother, with whom he was enraged, or my sisters, against whom he brought petty charges—viz., that one of them, when riding, cut him, &c. When I next met him, at his house, he took occasion to say, that he had been pleased to see my father walking about his field, as he had a great regard for him &c. &c. But as my letter was

full of abuse of my father, I maintained a rather marked silence. From that time his manner to me was so completely changed—became so shy and reserved, from being the very reverse, that I then told my brother J., I was convinced he was the author, and aware of my suspicion, but I should take no notice of it. My silence was not sufficiently marked to strike Mrs. T—— or her sister, who were present; *it was his taking the hint, and his consequent change of manner, which convinced me.* Up to that time I had no cause to think he disliked me; and I then began to suppose either that I had grazed his very thin skin, or that his dissatisfaction with my family in general, made him send a letter which abused others more than myself. Indeed, it appears from the letter that such a one was sent to them, though it never reached them; and the one sent to me, who was on good terms with him, was perhaps meant for a blind. The deep-rooted animosity, which soon after betrayed itself, I ascribed to his seeing my suspicion; and to this day I can ascribe it to nothing else.

On the 27th of Aug. 1833, Mr T——'s family

went to Scotland, and the following correspondence will shew the terms on which we parted. My Letters were returned to me in 1836, that I might refer to them.

FROM MISS H——.

26th August, 1833.

As C—— is writing you a few words of farewell, I think there can be no harm in my sending you a little billet at the same time. I cannot tell you *how* sorry I feel at the idea of our long absence from a friend we like so much as yourself; but if our stay in Scotland should be longer than we at present anticipate, I *do* hope you will come and pay us a visit at my brother's house, where I promise you a most hospitable reception. My hand trembles so much, that I can hardly form a letter. Farewell, and that every good may attend you, is the fervent wish of

Your very sincere friend,

A—— R—— C—— H——.

FROM MRS. T——.

Wednesday, 18th Sept., 1833.

* * * * *

THERE is no such thing as perfect happiness to be found in this sublunary sphere, but I think it would be a very near approach to it, could we reckon upon a visit from your brother and yourself, while we are under C——'s roof. To *you* we could point out half a hundred delightful walks and shady groves; besides the finest sands in the world, and the enjoyment of as much solitude as you pleased, excepting at breakfast and at dinner. Then to J—— we could promise hunting and shooting, golfing (a game resembling cricket), dancing, and the society of some of the best amateur musicians of which this land of song can boast; and to both of you we offer the heartiest of all hearty welcomes. And what detains J—— and you at A——? simply habit and indolence. At home you can gain no new ideas, and you will every day be acquiring *bachelor habits*, which *we* shall have infinite trouble in *correcting* when we return;

besides which, society is good for all of us, and you are not the man who can travel from Dan to Beersheba and cry "it is all barren," therefore send at once to I——'s for a pair of post horses, order them to be put to your open carriage, tumble your wardrobe into your trunks, as only you know how, desire J—— to be ready in two hours, and set off at once with the intention of paying us a visit, and remaining here during the winter.

* * * *

TO MRS. T——.

Tuesday, 24th Sept., 1833.

MY DEAR MRS. T——.

I RECEIVED your long and delightful letter yesterday, and have read it over very often, and derived very great pleasure from its kindness and cleverness. Your description of, and warm invitation to H—— H—— are hard to withstand; "and, indeed, for my own part, I could be well contented to be there, in respect of the love I bear your house." You will say, "He could be contented, why is he not, then?"

In the first place, my sister in law is expected at A—— to-morrow. J—— was to come from Brighton to-day, where he has been a fortnight, but perhaps he will not, as it has been raining, and he was to ride part of the way. In the second place, I am ungracious enough not to accept an invitation from such a distance, lest there should seem to be too much empressment, and a determination to quarter myself on your brother, who might well be alarmed at the prospect of a visitation, if I travelled 300 miles on purpose. I remember that when an individual came up from Scotland to see you at E—— A——, you naturally expected that the visit would be rather lengthy, as the Americans say; and I will not put myself in a similar situation. But I have often been invited to visit my relations at G——, and it seems to me very wrong that I have never done so. When I found myself at G——, I should be tempted to go on to T——, both for curiosity, and because I like Mr. S——, and because it is a convenient distance from the sea and fine sands, which are good for the health at this time of the year. As T—— is but 70

miles from Edinburgh, and the mail passes Mr. S——'s gate, I think it probable that he would advise me to go and see the modern Athens, as E—— did, and then, being so near, I should of course call to ask you how you do. You must not think me insensible to all your kind assurances, for indeed I am very grateful for them.

* * * * *

FROM MISS H——.

[The contrast between this letter and the farewell note, in which she *did* hope that I would pay a visit to her brother's house, and promised me a most hospitable reception, marks the time when Mr. T—— began to work upon her.]

Friday, 27th Sept.

C—— shewed me before breakfast a very kind letter, which she had received from you; but what will you say, when I acknowledge that a portion of its contents was so annoying to me, that I have taken the bold step of writing to you upon the subject, unknown to any one?

You *well know* how true a regard I have for you, and that nothing would give me sincerer pleasure than to see you here; and it is equally true, that C—— is very anxious to have you with us, and that my brother has as frequently said he should be most happy to have a visit from you. But the *imprudence* of such a proceeding as your coming ~~here~~, struck me even when C—— shewed me that she had repeated C——s's invitation to you, and I confess that I begged her to say nothing about it; but, *indeed*, she is *less prudent* than I am, and acting under the impulse of her warm feelings, she forgot *consequences entirely*. Hitherto W—— T——, from true kindness, I am sure, has never even hinted at many things which used to annoy him at A——, relative to yourself, even when we have been *holding forth* in your praise; and the immediate result has been that C—— and S—— have expressed a great desire to see you at H—— H——. W——'s silence would *not* last, *I am quite certain*, were he to know that there was any chance of your accepting C——s's invitation, sent you through C——; and rather

than the false report of your engagement to me should get again into circulation, *he* would most undoubtedly inform my brother that such a rumour had already existed, and that being so unfounded, it could not fail of being prejudicial to me, both in the South, and here, where it would certainly be propagated by W——, F——, Mr. K——, and others, who have already had the folly and freedom to mention the subject to W——, at A——. The prospect of having you with us here, I allow, is most tempting; but as our stay in Scotland will *probably* not exceed four or five months, it would surely be *very unwise* to risk any thing which might prevent the renewal of our former friendly intercourse when we return home; and an esclandre between W—— and you, about your visit here, would probably end in a coolness for life. When you write again to C——, I beg of you not to mention my having written, as she is in *great glee* at the prospect of seeing you so soon, but I *know* that upon reflection you will see the reasonableness of my advice, and *obey* my behest; and it is enough to say to C——, that circumstances

have occurred to induce you to change your mind about coming to Scotland.

* * * *

To Mrs. T——.

21st Oct. 1833.

* * * *

WITH regard to my chance of seeing you in Scotland, I think, as I thought before, that I had better not set out from home on purpose to pay you a visit; but if I travel for my health or amusement, and have an invitation to your brother's house, why in the world am I not to accept it? For fear of making Mr. T—— more displeased with me. What is he displeased at already? At having been asked by the C——es whether there was to be a match between Miss H—— and me? No such thing. I might as well object to seeing —— or —— at our house, because people had sometimes married them to one of my sisters. There may be dislike on his part, but there is no great cause for displeasure. I can believe that he has

intimated something or other to Miss H—— with a view to prevent my taking a long journey to be your guest for a long time; but if I found myself in your part of the world, particularly in his absence, his objecting, on her account, to my visiting H—— H——, is quite out of the question. No coolness between us is to be apprehended in consequence, nor is he very likely to lead the way to unpleasant explanations.

* * * * *

FROM MRS. T——.

Wednesday, 30th October, 1833.

A—— has just been in my room to beg that I will allow her to answer *part* of your last very agreeable letter; and as my long spell of illness, and the quietude of bed, have rendered me more passive than usual, *she* has departed happy, because in the enjoyment of what women most desire, namely, her own way. The fair damsel in question has also sealed my lips, and of course prohibited my pen, from alluding to the subject of your half promised visit here, and

she has rewarded my sisterly forbearance by the communication of a secret, namely—that she has already had the temerity to address you in the form of a letter!!! Really A—— must not set up for a model of prudence, but of prudery instead,—when she can dispatch billets, whether doux or aigres, to a bachelor six feet high without his shoes!!!!!!!!!!

* * * * *

FROM MISS H——, WITH THE PRECEDING.

I really am inclined to be *very angry* with you for your *obstinacy*, and more particularly because I cannot help seeing that you seem *determined* not to understand me. You know that I should be most happy were you to make out a visit here, did I not feel equally certain that our mutual acquaintances, (who *all* did us the favor to join your name to mine before we left A——) would say, and very naturally too, that no man in his wits would take a journey *north* at *this* season of the year to see a *country*; and they would be pleased to attribute the

attraction to *me* rather than to the leafless trees, or "snow-clad soil." In short, I am resolved *not to be talked about again*, nor to give Mr. T—— very good reason for writing to my brother C——s, to tell *him* that the people in the south had given me to you in marriage for the last twelve months, and that he begged C——s would not give fresh strength to a report so disadvantageous to me, by permitting you to pay him a visit, long or short, while I was under *his* roof.

I *know* that Mr. T. would think it his *duty* to write thus to my brother, were he to hear that *you* intended being in F——; and *this* was the sort of "unpleasant explanation," to which I alluded in my last letter, and which I have now told C—— I sent you. The consequence of such a measure would of course be, a coolness between Mr. T—— and yourself; *not* because he has any dislike to you, as you seem to suppose, but that he would highly and *very properly* disapprove of your bringing my name *again* into the gossiping mouths of our acquaintances in Town, and at A——. And had

people *not* talked of us, whether reasonably or unreasonably, there *then* could be nothing strange at all in your travelling any distance, if you liked it, to see friends who value you so highly as do both C—— and myself. * *

* * * * * *For once*

you must allow me to be the best judge in this matter, and to assure you that our *future intimacy* would most materially suffer, if it were not entirely broken off, by such a proceeding as your visit to H—— H——; and nothing but *the certainty* of a most disagreeable esclandre would induce me either to write to you as I do, or to deny myself the pleasure which your society *here* would most assuredly afford me. I beg of you, then, in your next letter to C——, to say that you have given up all thoughts of coming to Scotland this year; and in the spring I am almost sure we shall have the pleasure of seeing you in London.

* * * * *

I am afraid I shall find you not only as carelessly like “a tall school-boy” in your attire, upon my return, but that you will even carry a

satchel upon your back, instead of putting Homer and Virgil in your *pocket*. I find it so agreeable, and so like *old times*, to *scold* and *rate you*, that I have written a long tirade, when I only meant to say a few words ; nevertheless, and in *spite* of all *your faults*, I am ever and most truly your's,

A—— C—— H——.

None of these apprehensions had occurred to Miss H——, when she wrote her farewell note, and was living in the midst of the gossip she alludes to. Mr. T——, who took such pains to inspire her with them, when she was out of the way, and to prevent me from travelling 400 miles for her society, was the person who afterwards said to her in London (see page 35,) “ he will come and sit with you of a forenoon, *because it suits him* ; but he would not ride home upon a cold night, if you were to ask him upon your knees.”

To MRS. T——.

Wednesday, 27th Nov. 1833.

* * * * *

I felt much obliged to you for your instructions, as I certainly do not wish to lose your acquaintance, and I called on Mr. T——, I think, the next day. Indeed I was about to do so, for B—— had just told me that he was staying with his mother, and angry with J—— and me. I left cards for both, as he was not at home; and my father wrote to ask him to dine here to day, but he was engaged. We have several times said that we wondered he did not call at our house, when he came down; and we did not know where he was to be found, not thinking of the Excise. On going to the H——s, my father said he should ask Mr. T—— to come and dine; but it so happened that they were separated at dinner, and the carriages were announced before —— let them leave the table. We will ask him again, and try to smooth the quills upon the fretful porcupine.

* * * * *

Miss H——'s was not an angry letter, though she said in the beginning of it that she was inclined to be angry with me. Pray give my love to her, and say, that her arguments were very clear, and had the effect of arguments in general—that of convincing the person who used them. I expect to make her angry again by letting her know my opinion; which is, that Mr. T—— is not over-chary of her reputation, but of his own, which he is afraid might be lowered in the eyes of his excellent brother-in-law, C——s H——, if he saw me, “cold and careless of *his* will,” after what he has heard of *our* intimacy. An invite of a week's notice is dispatched to him to-day (Thursday). He talks of going for you in December. As far as my wishes are concerned, may this be more true than most of his words! If I cannot go to the holy mountain, may its deities come hither to me,

Their very affectionate worshipper,

W. T. A——.

Jan. 14th, 1834.

MY DEAR MRS. T——.

THE day before I received your letter, on going into my room I thought I saw it on the table, but was disappointed to find a bill instead. You see I wish to keep you to your promise, of writing oftener than I. The next day I was made happy to find one, and no mistake. The contents, however, were not exactly what I desired, for it says nothing of your return, and a great deal of “the stone of stumbling and rock of offence,” about which I have so often been nervous, lest our friendship should split upon it.

I am sorry to hear that you have been forced to fight my battles so much, and that Mr. T—— has added a second string to the harp on which he plays a discord. The first was, his great concern for Miss H——; and to tell you the truth, I look upon the present fuss in the same light, viz: as an excuse for breaking off an intercourse that has become irksome to him. If

this is his intention, I can only lament it; but I see no occasion for it, and think for all our sakes it had better be avoided. I never meant to irritate or neglect him, but supposed he would call at our house when he came to A——, without waiting for us to make an expedition to the Excise; and we should have been happy to have repaid in part his hospitality, if he had put himself in the way of accepting it. You can tell him, if you choose, that I am very sorry for the omission I have been guilty of, and as I wish to continue on good terms, I will be more careful for the future to avoid anything that looks like disrespect. But if he actually breaks off our acquaintance—when I have nothing to lose through his behaviour, I will then declare openly the real reason of it. I have never made comments upon him, except that I may have expressed incredulity on hearing any of his plans; such as his going to Scotland to bring you back directly. As for E——'s abundant civility, he had more opportunity for it, as they met at several houses; but we met only once, coming out of Church, and I then asked him to stay and dine,

but he would not. R—— was here the other day, and mentioned that he was going to leave a pack of cards at Mr. T——'s house, as they laughed at him at his club, for being so punctilious. If there is nothing worse [than punctilio at the bottom of his displeasure, I will hope that we may see as much of each other as formerly; for I would not only call at the Excise another time, but mount the stairs, as they mount the holy stairs at Rome—on my knees, rather than relinquish your “most sweet society.”

* * * *

FROM MRS. T——.

Thursday night, 21st Aug., 1834.

* * * *


DID you perfectly understand my motives for saying that it was better *not* to tell A—— you wished her to discontinue writing to you, after Mr. T—— should have arrived here? I knew that she would *think*, if there had been any *harm* in corresponding with you, that you should have told her so long ago, and if there was nothing

wrong, that you ought not to have suspected that it would displease Mr. T——; and as, upon such subjects, *unmarried ladies* are rather apt to be easily offended, I wished to avoid *all chance* of making A—— angry with you. At the same time, *I*, the wedded dame, can perfectly enter into your *peaceful* intentions, and shall take care that no blunder of *ours* shall serve as a pretext for diminishing our intimacy, when we return to Town. A—— asked me this evening, whether she “ought to write W—A—a note?” And my reply was, that I did not see any occasion for it, as we were to meet so soon, and there was so little to write about, that I hardly knew how to cover *one* sheet of paper myself. It is therefore very unlikely, that A—— will propose writing to you again.

* * * * *

FROM MISS H——, WITH THE PRECEDING.

I have run away with C——’s envelope, in order that I may *scold you* well, for threatening to storm our Kingdom of F——, and so



running the risk of an esclandre, and a tourbillion, and so forth, when we are sure of seeing you in Town by the beginning of November. If nothing had *ever* been said about *you*, by the officious and malicious, the case would have been different, and may be still, when you and I are a little older, or when *I get married*; but at present, you must indeed be more careful of *your ways*. Upon my word I should have been inclined *to drown you*, had you come up to us when we were in the sea, although I might have been sorry for the *outrage* the next minute.

* * * * *

I am not sure that I *am* quite restored to good humor yet, but the truth is, you can put me in a passion even at this distance, as well as at E—— A——; you have so much that is amiable in you too, that it is doubly provoking you should think, and act, so unlike the rest of the world. Is not *that* a pretty speech? Pray let me hear a better account of your looks, and believe, in spite of fate, and your “shock-

ing bad cap," and your *love* for —— and ——,
that I am ever

Your very affectionate Friend,

A—— R—— C—— H——.

This was the last letter I received from Miss H——. In the next January her sister returned to London; and we had no further communication with each other, until we met again in Nov. 1835.

The two following letters were read by the brother of their writer, and this extract is from one of mine to him.

" I had, as you know, letters to General D—— and Colonel L——. Just after their delivery, —— —— announced, through my brother, that prompt measures had been taken in the North, to prevent my introductions taking place. They were not quite in time for this, but they did prevent all further intercourse at B——; and since I met your carriage leaving

L—— H——, the same feeling has been shewn in that quarter. I have thus but a choice of evils. Am I to submit to imputations which these letters would prove to be most undeserved, or am I to incur the odium of publishing private correspondence? I am for the latter course, particularly as part of the odium is incurred already by the proposal; and I must trust that a perfect knowledge of the case will convince people I had a great provocation."

The answer to this contained no denial or explanation of the measures said to have been taken.

The charge, *never* to mention that I communicated with one sister, except in the presence of the other, lest sisterly confidence should be destroyed, became nugatory soon after it was given; for a letter of mine, in answer to a long and important one from the same writer, falling first on its arrival into their hands, was opened and read by her sister and Mr. T——; and for the last three months of their residing together, though I paid regular visits of an hour or two to

one lady, the other would never make her appearance.

FROM MRS. T——.

Friday, 16th Oct. 1835.

I had just asked for your address, and was debating within myself whether I should write to you, when your letter made its appearance, and settled my doubts in the most agreeable manner. The sight of your handwriting, with the addition of a post-mark, and a great seal, reminded me of the pleasure we used to feel at L——, upon the arrival of one of your distinct, concise epistles; and I am sure it is no exaggeration to say, that it was read over as many times as there were words in the letter. I was provoked at missing you, when you called here, particularly as I had a great deal to say to you, which I fancied it would not be so easy to write—*mais nous verrons*. Your “fair torment,” or “the plague of your life,” as you call her, does not come from S—— by steam, but by land; and, although the party are to pay visits *en route*, A—— will be with me by the middle

of November, and my joy at her return is unbounded. You know we have never been separated since her school days, until this year, and I have found from experience, how many of the minor evils of my lot were lightened by her sympathy, or forgotten in her cheerful society. ———, as you must have discovered, is a very implacable personage; and, as you once offended him, he is evidently determined to annoy you if possible; not that he would do you any serious injury, but he will never lose an opportunity of “crossing the bent of your humour,” if he can help it. At present, *I know* his plan is to work upon A——’s feelings, and her notions of decorum, in order to convince her that she *ought* to be more distant in her behaviour to you, because you have not done, what he formerly thought proper to expect—*i. e.* made your proposals to my sister. One would laugh at his folly, were he not *master of the house*; it is, therefore, more prudent to let him *seem* to have his *own way*. Now, you may easily understand how a girl, who has not herself had any thoughts of *matrimony*, might be led into supposing that

heart prompts me, and its dictates, though not always the most worldly-wise, are generally the kindest, and in the present instance its whisperings are not to be withstood. You must then make up your mind to my playing the part of H—— S——, and sitting at my embroidery-frame during your first interviews.

* * * * *

FROM MRS. T——.

Wednesday Evening, 6th January.

The contents of your last note grieved me much; and, what adds to my vexation is, that I can do no good, but must trust that time will set right what *some* prejudices and *many* misrepresentations have for the present embittered—I mean your friendship and regard for A——. You would not blame her so severely, could you know *the half* she has endured upon your account—how her pride and delicacy have been wounded—how her affection for you has been ridiculed as “unrequited love”—and how impossible it would be for her to remain under Mr. T——’s roof, unless she complied with his

wishes respecting you. I own that, under great irritation of feeling arising from all these causes, she gave way to expressions before you which were cruel and uncalled for, *had they been true*: but I have still very strong doubts upon that point—and the very fact of her being *angry*, contradicted her assertions of indifference. You ought to remember, also, that when Mr. T—— tells A—— that “she is in every one’s mouth, that all his acquaintances expressed the greatest indignation at *your* conduct towards her, and that her *reputation would suffer* were she to permit you to come here oftener than any common acquaintance”—it is no wonder, I say, that A—— should, after such a tirade, assure Mr. T—— that she *agreed* with him, and would inform you it was *her* wish, as well as *his*, that you should be admitted only so many times in a week.* Was it not irritating to hear all this for the hundredth time? Was it not irritating to be obliged to tell *you* this? Was it not irritating that she should find you less disposed to submit to a hard necessity for the sake of her quiet,

* A mistake.—See page 40.

than inclined to persevere in visiting her so frequently as to draw down more anger upon her? A—— cannot act a part, and yet there was one sketched out for her; the consequence was, she over-acted, and became angry alike with herself and you; had she been left to follow the bent of her natural feelings, I am very certain that you would have had no cause of complaint against her. Every little trifle has been turned against you. When you refused to accompany us to the theatre, I heard Mr. T—— say to her—“ Ah, you see how much *real regard* he has for *you*; he will come and sit with you of a forenoon, *because it suits him*; but he would not ride home upon a cold night if you were to ask him upon your knees.” Do you think this taunt did not *tell*? *I know* it did, for when we were dressing, A—— said, *apropos* to nothing—“ Young —— and Captain —— have more than once crossed the ferry from E—— to dance with me at a ball; and yet, you see, W—— A——, who pretends to have so much regard for me, would not ride five miles to oblige us. I daresay W—— T—— is quite right in saying that he

only comes here just when it suits him, and I should be very poor spirited to allow *that*." Upon which I pointed out to her the difference between the habits of men of pleasure, who lived constantly in society, and such a man as you were ; and added, " If he did refuse rather determinedly to-day, it was no great wonder, considering the way you behaved to him." As to what Mr. T—— pretends to have heard from A—— in S——, it simply amounts to this—that, when he accused her, before C——s and S—— of "*being in love with you, when you did not really care a straw for her,*" A—— said, "If I had not had GOOD REASON to think that W—— A—— liked me, I never should have liked him." Upon the words "*good reason*" all Mr. T——'s reasons are built; and his fruit of knowledge, scant as it is, has been plucked from a forbidden tree, with a rude and unfeeling hand. Over and over again since A—— came here he has repeated to her—" You know *you told me* that W—— A—— was *attached* to you ; and who ever heard of a modest woman's allowing a man to tell her that he was attached to her, when in the same breath, he declared

that he was not a *marrying man*?" Now, A—— never used the word *attached* at all; and, if her feelings towards you are indeed, as she professed, *weakened*, it only shews that constant *teasing* will do more to effect that change, than either time, absence, or the attentions of other men. It would not be fair or sisterly of me to unfold more of A——'s sentiments to you, than mere chance circumstances bring to light; but had you seen her annoyance when I gave her your last letter to read; and she said, "Well, you see that YOU are his ONLY FRIEND NOW, so, of course, he can't care what I do or say to him," the charge of coldness and indifference must have fallen to the ground. What vexed me most to hear, although I *did not believe it*, was a part of your conversation with Mr. T—— at the Exercise; but I have already written so much, that I must tell you what I allude to on Friday, when A—— and myself are going to A——; and it will be easy for you to ask *us both* to walk in the garden, and for you to lead the way with me, for A—— is so suspicious of my telling you anything. SHE was hurt to the quick by the com-

munication, and the coarse and indelicate way in which it was uttered; and, strange to say, she believed, or *said* she believed, what *I* did not, even before your letter arrived. Once more let me beg of you *never* to mention, either to A—— or any one else, that I have written to you *now*, or that I ever communicate with you except in her presence; if she knew it, piqued and mortified as she is at present, she would withdraw from me that confidence which has ever been the dearest bond of our sisterly affection. If I did not confide in you, would I write thus? If I did not like you, and sympathise with you, should I run the risk of displeasing one so dear to me, and who is, at this moment, under a complete mental delusion? I do not ask you to continue to do more than to ESTEEM A——, but indeed, I know that she does not deserve to lose your good opinion. *Everything* in this house is talked about before *everybody*; only imagine how A—— must feel upon such occasions! and yet, instead of being seriously angry with Mr. T——, she blames only his OVER-ZEAL in her cause, which she fancies makes him for-

get decorum in the heat of discussion. I, alas! have no such veil of prejudice over my mental vision; and were it *to be sworn* to me that Mr. T—— had no private animosity against you, I would not believe it! But you must, if you care for the continuance of our friendship, *bend to the storm*, and come here only at stated periods, after certain intervals; and, above all, act as if you were convinced there was *no* prejudice against you: *this* is the true way to remove it, for it can have no *solid foundation*.

* * * * *

FROM MRS. T——.

(No date.)

I have only *this moment* received a note from you, and about two hours ago dispatched a letter to A——, in reply to your Friday's communication. *That* note of mine will explain why I cannot *be at home* to you to-day, and answers all the rest of your queries. I do assure you that I have *promised* not to admit YOUR visits

oftener than once in three weeks, and must not disobey Mr. T——.

Your affectionate friend,

C——.

FROM MR. T—— TO MRS. C——.

February, 1836.

* * * *

I THINK, under all the circumstances, I ought to add that any change in the intimacy between my family and Mr. W—— A—— has been caused by Miss H——'s own desire, without the interference of her family, far less of any of her friends.

* * * *

If there be any truth in this extract, what are the letters of both ladies but a tissue of falsehood?

Thinking Mr. T—— unreasonable, in not being contented by sending me an abusive anonymous letter, without punishing me also for my secret thoughts, I called upon him at his office, on the 10th February, and informed him of my suspicions.



He who was thus suspected and thus informed, had betrayed an animosity so decided, that a witness to the workings of it had said, "Were it *to be sworn* to me that Mr. T—— had no private animosity against you, I would not believe it!" And one might have thought that long nourished anger would not have contained itself, when increased by the surprize and indignation of an innocent man—but I was told that I was quite wrong in my supposition, and was asked to take the newspaper, and wait a little till he was at liberty, that we might both return together to the West End in an omnibus, which we did. It cannot be pretended that I acquitted him on his denial; for, on the 14th of the same month, he received a letter from me, detailing the steps I had taken to obtain the letters from the Editor of the *John Bull*, and concluding with this sentence:—"Plain dealing and a little indulgence on your part would easily settle things; but I am on such strong ground as to my behaviour to Miss H——, and the absence of all disagreement between us till her return, that I can never sit down contented to be debarred from

her society, and suffer the imputation to go abroad that my conduct occasioned it, while there is another reason in the distance."

A day or two afterwards we met in the street, and he proposed that he should go before a Magistrate, and take his oath that he was not the author; but I declined this species of satisfaction, for I might with great truth have used the words just quoted, with regard to his equally denied animosity, "Were it *to be sworn* to me, I would not believe it!"

TO MR. T—.

28th March, 1836.

DEAR T—,

SINCE I last saw you, I have consulted some professional men upon a subject naturally interesting to me, and which circumstances conspire to make interesting also to you. I meant to have given you their opinion, before going further, together with a point or two they dwell upon, and which you are not yet aware of; but we meet so seldom, that unless you like me to

call upon you at the Excise, I may not have the opportunity.

Yours truly,

W. T. A——.

FROM MR. T——.

March 29, 1836.

DEAR SIR,

I received your note this morning with great surprise. I cannot imagine to what you allude, unless it is to the subject of the Anonymous Letters, and I did hope, after my unqualified contradiction of your suspicion, I should not have heard of that subject again. Until, however, I ascertain from you the point upon which you have consulted your professional advisers, I am not in a situation to reply to your note. I cannot make an appointment at the Excise, being so much occupied at present, but I have to beg that you will communicate to me by note.

I thought it right, under the circumstances of your having consulted your professional advisers, to show your note and my reply to Mrs. T——,

which, but for your present method of proceeding,
I should not have felt myself justified in doing.

I remain, yours truly,

W. T. T—.

To MR. T—.

30th March, 1836.

DEAR T—,

I found your note when I came in to luncheon to-day; and though, after the mischief that has unfortunately occurred between our families, by means of letters, and for saving trouble, of which I am a great economist, I should have preferred speaking to writing to you; yet as your engagements are more than mine, I must do as you desire. I think you will not be surprised at my touching again upon an unpleasant subject, when you hear my reason for it. I need not repeat what first suggested the possibility of your being the author of some anonymous letters; or, strictly speaking, letters with fictitious signatures. I mentioned my suspicion reluctantly, after a long time, with what gave rise to it, and favoured it, and I received

your "unqualified contradiction." If then it was not you, it must be somebody else, whose discovery would be most satisfactory to you as well as myself. Accordingly I applied for professional assistance; and, if your contradiction left me completely at fault, you cannot call this a strange method of proceeding. If any clue had been found, or fresh person fixed upon, I should have thought it fair to inform you of it, as I do of the present facts. I produced two letters; the first received when you were in London, the other when you were in Scotland. The signatures are the same, but what are the attendant circumstances? The hand-writing is perfectly different; the paper and paper-maker's names in water-mark are different, but the name and water-marks on the second are the same as those on a letter of Mrs. T——'s from Scotland about that time. Both the first and second letters were put into the post in London; but, while the date and post-mark of the first correspond, the post-mark date is three days later than the date of the second, which was observed, without any great stretch of professional sagacity,

to allow time for the journey from Scotland. Perhaps you will feel these to be unfortunate coincidences, and not blame me for mentioning them, which is all I do, for I do not make any charge, or expect any explanation. In consulting others, I of course did not mention your name, or compromise you in any way; nor did I allude to private motives and observations, but confined myself to manifest palpable facts. Their opinion was that these had weight, but I am not prepared to act upon it, or to make any difference in my intercourse with you. Had I prosecuted the inquiry without regard to publicity, and without giving you notice of the bearing things took towards you, it would have been more unfriendly, and might have furnished cause for complaint, which I hope you cannot find in my present proceeding. J—— was quite in the dark upon it, and is so still, with the exception of the light he got at your house; for the fewer confidants the better, though perhaps his are the only lips I could seal besides my own. I have not the smallest intention of taking my father and sisters into my confidence; and would strongly press upon you the expediency of keep

ing the subject from E—— and his wife, if possible, and from going the round of our acquaintance.

FROM MR. T——.

March 31, 1836.

DEAR A——,

I THINK it due, both to you and myself, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of to-day, and I cannot complain of the tone in which it is written. I am glad that you are now convinced of what I so solemnly assured you the other day, *viz.* that I have never written any letter with a false signature, nor an anonymous production of any kind, either to you or to any one else. I must candidly confess that I should not feel the smallest “interest” in discovering the author of an anonymous letter addressed to myself, (with which I have often been favoured,) much less to any one else, as I have always considered such productions to be beneath one’s notice. The coincidences you name may or may not appear strange, according to one’s notions of the fact,

that five hundred thousand persons may write letters upon paper bearing the same water-mark, and that half the number may or do delay putting their letters into the post the day they are dated. But if such vague suspicions were to be the ground-work of accusations so serious as the one you brought against me, only because we seemed to you to be upon less friendly terms than formerly, I really do not think that society itself could long exist.

I am glad you did not think it necessary to mention any names to your "professional advisers," and I can only assure you that it is neither the wish nor the intention of myself or any of this family to allude again to so disagreeable a topic. You are at perfect liberty to show this letter to J——, as he had heard of the subject from me yesterday. Mrs. T—— desires me to say that she never thought for a moment of mentioning the subject either to Mr. or Mrs. E. A——.

Believe me, very truly, your's,

W. T. T——.

THIS letter has always appeared to me un-

like the reply of an innocent man, and to afford an example of what is called begging the question, and leaping to a conclusion. I should be glad to know what expression of mine—or rather I should be sorry to find that any one of mine could warrant his expression, “I am glad that you are now convinced of what I so solemnly assured you the other day.” Was he so persuaded because I explained to him suspicious circumstances observed since our last interview, and drew his attention to some “unfortunate coincidences?” He saw, indeed, that I had no wish to make any charge, if I could obtain from him a little more indulgence; but he must also have seen, that what I had before spoken of as the reason in the distance, was brought rather nearer. His self-complacency makes him “candidly confess that he should not feel the smallest interest in discovering the author of an anonymous letter,” of which he was suspected. He could propose going before a Magistrate to take a solemn oath, but did not at all care to be cleared by my discovery of the real culprit. I had been informed (page 31,) that he would never lose an opportunity of


“crossing the bent of my humour,” if he could help it; yet he was ready to swear for my satisfaction, and not capable of deriving any himself from the proof of my being in the wrong, and the humbling apology that a sense of it must compel me to make. This would have been a prouder position than one in which he stood when he received a different sort of apology, on different grounds.

TO MRS. T——.

Friday night, 15th April, 1836.

MY DEAR MRS. T——,

I received your kind long letter yesterday—for it is certainly very kind, though not on my side. I was going out, and engaged till dinner time; and this morning I had to go to town to drive my father back. When I got home I took your letter and Mr. T——’s in my pocket to G——, to read and consider them quietly. In acknowledging the receipt of mine, he says he cannot complain of the tone of it. I can say the same of his—indeed I told you I thought it amicable. It has this sentence:—



“I can only assure you that it is neither the wish nor the intention of myself, or any of this family, to allude again to so disagreeable a topic.” I thought this sounded conclusive; and I would ask if you are sure that you oblige him, in declaring it cannot rest where it is without a formal apology. You are in error in saying that I began with the notion that Mr. T—— disliked me. I had no such notion when I received the first letter. I had met with nothing but kindness from him, and no bar in the way of *our* friendship. It was his extreme susceptibility of the slightest possible indications of suspicion, which impressed on me the belief that he was the author, and *consequently* bore me ill will. It need not rest merely on my assertion that I believed this before you went to Scotland, and you know that it was not till you were there that he began his operations against me. His friends will say I was too credulous. Miss ——’s friends, who, perhaps, had a vague suspicion, without much ground, would feel it strong confirmation that a man, so intimately acquainted with him as I was, should be driven to think him

guilty of the same sort of action, and while they were on very good terms. I hold that I was at perfect liberty to keep my sentiments to myself as long as I chose, and to mention them privately to him, when I hoped they might be a check to the mischief he was making. Reconciliation with Miss H—— has been my object—not revenge on him; and, even if our friendship were utterly broken to pieces, and proof were to fall into my hands, I should think far more of showing her for what she had sacrificed me, than of blasting his character in the eye of the world. All you tell me of what that world would say, if it were to judge between her and me, has no effect upon me, as I never thought of appealing to it, or laying to her charge any “impropriety or dishonourable conduct.” Between ourselves, I think that since her return she has acted unwisely, and not well; but, out of your house, J—— is the only person aware of this, and he could not be otherwise, both from his own opportunities of seeing how things were, and from having the benefit of Mr. C——’s observations, who looked quite through her deeds at our dinner




table. I did not say a word against her at F—— P——, and I have ceased speaking to J—— on the matter, which is, after all, one of private feeling. It would give me no satisfaction if she were censured by strangers. I have had many more kind words from her, upon the whole, than injurious ones; and though her kindness has now fallen into decay, yet “around the dear ruin each wish of my heart entwines itself ver- dantly still.”

If I am to write to Mr. T——, it is too late for him to suppose that I do it of my own accord. I might speak on our first meeting with more appearance of independence, but when may we happen to meet? I think you must negotiate between us, and say that you have shaken my prejudices, particularly about water-marks. I wish you would say, at the same time, it is a grievance I cannot get over, that he should first give me leave to walk with you—that he should allow —— to do so three days together, and on the third, *because* I was with you, should forbid your walking with either of us. His pretending to make no distinction of

persons is nothing. Ask him to relax from his severity on this point, instead of retracting his own word, denying what is evident, and thereby weakening the effect of his other denials. Tell me, too, in that good faith which you, at least, have always maintained, that you will receive my visits about three times a fortnight, and walk with me occasionally, and I will apologise and withdraw any implied accusation. I thank you much for the warmth and earnestness with which you write, and the contrast which you exhibit when compared "with yon fair frozen dew-drop."

I have been writing for the first time with a style instead of a pen, and from not being used to the apparatus, have missed a page.

Believe me ever,

Your grateful and affectionate friend,

W. T. A—.

In the course of a week, I called upon Mr. T—, and said, that as it seemed he expected an apology, I came to make one. I shall have occasion presently to refer to what then passed

between us. After this, the restriction of my visits to one in three weeks was done away with, and I was received every week by Mrs. T——; but I was told, that Miss H—— was so angry at the imputation cast upon her brother-in-law, that she declared she never would be present, and she never was. This was not the state of things I desired, and I therefore made up my mind to act on the opinion of my “professional advisers,” which I was not prepared to do at the time; it was, that if I thought it worth while, I should go down to Scotland, to the neighbourhood of the place from which I supposed one letter to come, and endeavour to trace the handwriting.

In June I discovered the identity of the water-marks on Miss H——’s farewell note and my anonymous letter, received in the same month, on the same sort of gilt-edged paper.

In September I discovered the identity of the water-marks, on the paragraph sent to the John Bull, and a sheet of paper from Mr. T——’s house. In October I was in Scotland, and hearing some time afterwards that Mr. T—— talked

of mentioning the matter to all his friends, I sent him, through my brother, the following correct list of points to be dwelt upon.

Thursday, 17th Nov. 1836.

A letter to the John Bull, April 1833, having the same name and date in water-mark (1830) as a copy of verses by Mrs. T——, sent from E. A——; each sheet of paper being then three years old. A letter received the following August, has a different water-mark from the first, but the same as a note from Miss H—— in that month; date in water-mark, 1830.

A letter received when Mr. T—— was in Scotland, with the same seal and signature as the preceding, but in a different hand, and dated three days earlier than the post mark; has a different water-mark from the others, and the same as three out of four of Mrs. T——'s letters nearest that time. Advertisements will presently be put in the Fife and Edinburgh papers, offering Fifty Pounds for the discovery

of the handwriting, and mentioning where Lithographical specimens may be seen.

If Mr. T—— alludes to Miss H——, I have written proofs, that from the time of their going to Scotland, he began to attack her acquaintance with me, and was the cause of her alienation on her return; and his animosity being fully established, will serve to increase the suspicion of his authorship.

On the 31st of last March, after the first fracas, Mr. T—— wrote me word he was satisfied. On the 14th of April, Mrs. T—— wrote to me, that I must make him an apology, and *thereby* enable her to receive me, which *otherwise* was quite impossible. I wrote an answer, saying, he could not suppose it done on my own accord, and in about a week called on him. When he accepted the apology, he told me, he understood there had been some correspondence on the subject with Mrs. T——, but he knew nothing of it, but believed she *would* have shewn it him, had he wished it. The next time I was in B—— Street, Mrs. T—— happened to say, that (from her being out, I think) Miss H—— had

opened my answer, and given it to her husband, who thus sanctioned his wife in extracting an apology, which he would not do for himself, and shewed what his denial was worth.

In a letter to my brother, on the 26th of Nov., Mr. T—— acknowledges the receipt of this communication, and says in reply to it:—

“It is a matter of the most perfect indifference to me, in what manner Mr. W—— A—— publishes the business to which he alludes, for I never wrote an anonymous letter in my life, nor had anything directly or indirectly to do with one.

“I never was the cause of Miss H——’s alienation from Mr. W—— A——, whatever supposed proofs he may have to the contrary: and I never sanctioned Mrs. T—— in extracting an apology from him; what purpose, indeed, could a verbal apology answer, when I had previously received a written explanation from him, (see page 44,) in which he expressly withdrew the charge he had made against me?”

In this quotation, Mr. T—— denies three things. But if there be any truth in his second

denial, what are the letters (see pages 30 and 31,) but a tissue of falsehoods?

His third denial does not extend to any of the facts mentioned by me, charging him with direct falsehood, but merely to my inference that he sanctioned Mrs. T—— in extracting an apology. But when a man has the power, the right, and plenty of time to prevent a thing, and does not, he sanctions it. He accepted an apology, which a man of honour could hardly have done, *knowing from my letter* (page 53,) that it was *not* made from a sense of what was due to him, nor from any demand of his, but from a negotiation with his wife, and he therefore falsely denied the knowledge of it. It was in fact extracted by these words of Mrs. T—— “*Do* be yourself again, then, I beseech you; *say* at once to Mr. T—— that you *regret* that odious accusation, and *thereby* enable me still to receive you here, which otherwise, I am reluctantly obliged to confess, is *quite* IMPOSSIBLE.’” If, then, there appears to be no truth in the second or third denial, why should I give any credit to the first?


FIFTY POUNDS REWARD.

If the person who wrote and addressed a letter to a Clergyman in England, bearing date the 11th of October, 1834, and signed "W. H. Ross," will give up the name and swear to the person of his employer, he will receive a reward of FIFTY POUNDS STERLING; or, whoever will give such information as will lead to the discovery of the writer of the said letter, will receive a reward of TWENTY-FIVE POUNDS STERLING.

The original manuscript may be seen, and further information obtained, on application to Robert Kennedy, Esq., W. S.; Messrs. Drummond, Mitchell, and Rhind, Writers, Cupar; or George Wood, Writer, in Colinsburgh.

Colinsburgh, 30th March, 1837.

This advertisement appeared in the Fifeshire Journal, and I soon heard that Mr. T—— had seen it. The letter was to my father.



TO MESSRS. DRUMMOND & Co.,
Writers, Cupar, N.B.

Lombard St. April 13th, 1837.

Gentlemen.—In consequence of an advertisement which I have just seen in a Scottish Newspaper, I am induced to trouble you on the subject of the same. I addressed a letter about the 10th of October, A.D. 1834, to a clergyman in England, who lives within four or five miles of town, and as I have had no answer, I am hopeful that this advertisement may be intended for my benefit. The letter was written to request the payment of my small account, due to me for a long time, by one of the Rev. gentleman's sons. It was for various articles in my line, including, among other elegant items, three dozen pots of my well known Sicilian cream for promoting the growth of whiskers, and four dozen bottles of my unrivalled Pearl Milk for softening and beautifying the hands, patronized by the nobility and

gentry, and sold by all respectable perfumers in town and country. In the hope that my answer to your advertisement may lead to the settlement of my account, and expecting your reply thereon, I am, gentlemen, your most obedient servant,

CHAS. H. ROSS.

This letter, dated the 13th, was put into the post on the 17th, as if to show that men of business could do such things. There was no one answering the address, but it came from somebody acquainted with my family. I had often been joked in Mr. T——'s house about whiskers and white hands; and the sheet of paper with watermarks corresponding to those on the John Bull paragraph, contained a copy of verses by Mrs. T——, with a whisker-comb.

TO MESSRS. DRUMMOND & Co.,

Writers, Cupar, N. B.

Gentlemen.—I was somewhat startled the other day to see an advertisement in a Scotch news-

paper, offering a reward for the discovery of the person who addressed a letter to a clergyman in England, on the 10th of October, 1834, which letter was signed W. H. Ross. My own signature naturally arrested my attention, and I conclude that I am the person alluded to in that advertisement, as I certainly did address a letter about that time to the clergyman of a parish in England, in which I have some property.

The name of my "employer," as the author of that advertisement elegantly terms the person at whose suggestion the letter in question was written, is Georgina Ross: this lady is my wife, and I can swear most positively to her person. The purport of the letter was to offer Mrs. Ross's support to an association then about to be formed in the parish for distributing Romford soap and flannel petticoats to the poor during the ensuing winter. I have now given you all the information in my power, and I think I have fairly earned your inquisitive client's reward. He would, I think do well, to abstain in future from inserting in the public prints advertisements

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which cannot fail to cast upon individuals imputations of a most unwarrantable character. I have the honor to be, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

W. H. Ross.

Limmer's Hotel, London.

No such person was known at the hotel. These two letters came by the same post, and are so much in Mr. T——'s own jocose style, as to show a spirit of fool-hardiness. They both mention the 10th instead of the 11th of October.

TO — KENNEDY, ESQ., W.S., EDINBURGH.

April 18th, 1837.

Mr. William Herbert Ross presents his compliments to Mr. Kennedy, and in reference to an advertisement which appears in a newspaper which has just been forwarded to him from Scotland, begs to say that he cannot deny having addressed letters on more than one occasion to

clergymen in England about the time alluded to in that advertisement. Those letters, however, contained nothing of which Mr. William Ross has any reason to feel ashamed, and he cannot conceive why his name and signature should be paraded before the eyes of the public in this extraordinary manner. If a just cause of complaint could be founded on any letter that Mr. W. H. Ross had written, it appears to him that the injured or offended party would have taken a more honorable and manly course if he had applied to Mr. Ross at once, for explanation on the subject, instead of having recourse to the paltry and contemptible device of inserting in the papers circulated in the neighbourhood in which several of his family reside, an advertisement which must have a tendency to create suspicions unfavourable to Mr. W. H. Ross's character as a gentleman. The use of the peculiarly offensive term *employer* in the advertisement, implies nothing less than that Mr. Ross had permitted himself to be made a tool in the hands of another, and had authorized by his own name and signature, some

publication either of a false or malicious tendency, an imputation which he * with abhorrence.

Mr. Ross cannot expect that Mr. Kennedy should violate the confidence reposed in him professionally, and he abstains, on that account, from asking for the name and address of his client, from whose attacks, either open, if there be the courage to make them, or assassin-like, as in this instance, Mr. Ross feels his character in no danger whatever. Mr. Ross has some suspicion who the individual is, and he takes this opportunity of telling him that his recent proceedings have been such as to uphold him not only to the derision of every man of sense, but to the utter scorn and detestation of every one in whom the sentiments of honour and the feelings of manhood are not entirely extinct.

* *Hotel, London.*

This is perfectly the style of a gentleman throughout—though, to be sure, it is not the part of a gentleman to indulge in such expres-

* The word cannot be made out, nor the name of the hotel.

sions, and give an address that cannot be read. I never knew any body of inferior rank write half so long a note, in the third person, without making some mistake. The letter paper of the two last Messrs. Ross has the same large watermark in the middle, which has been divided in each case, to make it into note-paper, and increase the postage. They both object to the term "employer." It detracts from the grandeur of the defiance that it must be anonymous; for a real Mr. Ross would have asked for the contents of the letter referred to, which were open to him. Supposing for a moment Mr. T—— to be innocent, there is nothing to connect the original W. H. R. with Scotland, and the chances would be against his seeing an unlooked-for advertisement in a Scotch newspaper. But, even if he did, he would be gratified rather than angry. He would see that I was on a wrong scent, and that he had only to remain quiet; why then should he write a wrathful braggadocio letter in reply? It was a very foolish and discreditable mode of

giving relief to his feelings, for the suspected author to adopt—but an unsuspected one had *no* motive for so doing.

I did not succeed in finding out the Scotch amanuensis; and indeed I gave up the idea that he was to be found in the immediate neighbourhood of L——; for the paper-maker's name on that particular letter proved to be so common a one, that I ceased to attach weight to it. I do not, however, believe the striking correspondence of the others to be accidental, any more than the interval of three days between the date and post-mark of this, which I think most probably was written in Edinburgh, dated inadvertently, like the others, the day it was written, and sent under cover to the Excise. These coincidences were not the ground-work, but only the corroboration of my suspicion; which was expressed to Mr. T—— before I observed any one of them, and became conviction in my own mind before I had any thing *else* to complain of. I never expected him to own a very blackguard piece of abuse; whoever *could* be guilty of it

would be sure to deny it; what I desired was, to check him in his course of revenge upon my private thoughts, which he had so ably divined, and make him try to undo what he had succeeded too well in accomplishing. Therefore, after letting him know plainly that I conceived him capable of such dishonourable conduct, I was willing to soothe the wound given to his pride, as much as I conscientiously could, in the hope of deriving some benefit from his prudence; not that I once wavered in my belief, but that I might leave him as handsome a retreat as possible from his undermined position. I have been so true and steady to my undisguised purpose throughout the whole affair, that the concluding sentence of my first letter to him will nearly serve for the concluding sentence of this last appeal. I cannot now say:—"Plain dealing and a little indulgence on your part would easily settle things;" but I can repeat, "I am on such strong ground as to my behaviour to Miss H——, and the absence of all disagreement between us till her return, that I can

never sit down contented to be debarred from her society, and suffer the imputation to go abroad that my conduct occasioned it, while there is another reason in the distance."



